

MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter

Coming Events

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan Legislative Advocacy Day • May 17
Civil Rights Commission Meeting • May 21
Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration • May 22
MI Response to Hate – Sixth Annual MIAAHC Conference • September 14
Kellogg Center, East Lansing

April, 2012

Federal agency says transgender people protected

From the Detroit News, 4/25/12

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120425/NATION/204250374/1361/Federal-agency-says-transgender-people-protected>

Washington — The agency that enforces the federal job discrimination laws has for the first time ruled that transgender people are protected from bias in the workplace.

Tigers' Phil Coke speaks out against bullying at task force hearing

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/24/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120424/NEWS01/204240365/Detroit-Tigers-relief-pitcher-Phil-Coke-speaks-out-against-bullying-at-child-violence-task-force-hearing?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

Phil Coke has been bullied.

The Detroit Tigers relief pitcher, testifying Monday in Detroit before members of the National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, said he was picked on as a child and is now working to stop bullying through the Detroit Tigers Foundation.

Sikh Day Parade celebrates community, culture, religion

From the Lansing State Journal, 4/23/12

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120422/NEWS01/304220145/Sikh-Day-Parade-celebrates-community-culture-religion?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|News>

For a few hours on Saturday, Adado Riverfront Park was the site of the cheapest meal in town: Pakoras and samosas, bright pink chum chums and dripping sweet gulab jamuns, Styrofoam cups of hot chai and more besides, free to all comers.

California Affirmative Action: Campus Diversity Suffers Under Race-Blind Policies

From the Huffington Post/AP, 4/21/12

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/21/california-affirmative-action_n_1442851.html?ref=latino-voices&ir=Latino%20Voices

BERKELEY, Calif. — Fifteen years ago, California voters were asked: Should colleges consider a student's race when they decide who gets in and who doesn't?

NJ bully's paralyzing punch nets \$4.2M

From the Times Herald (Norristown, PA), 4/20/12

<http://www.timesherald.com/article/20120418/NEWS04/120419509&pager=1>

RAMSEY, N.J. — A New Jersey school district has agreed to pay \$4.2 million to settle a lawsuit by a middle school student who was paralyzed when a known bully punched him in the abdomen.

Complaint against East Lansing's planned closure of Red Cedar School withdrawn

From the Lansing State Journal, 4/20/12

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120420/NEWS05/304200020/Complaint-against-East-Lansing-s-planned-closure-Red-Cedar-school-withdrawn?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

EAST LANSING — A civil rights complaint filed against East Lansing Public Schools in connection with the planned closing of Red Cedar Elementary has been withdrawn.

Museum documenting nation's racism opens at Ferris State

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/19/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120419/NEWS06/120419017/racist-museum-Ferris-State?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

BIG RAPIDS — The objects displayed in Michigan's newest museum range from the ordinary, such as simple ashtrays and fishing lures, to the grotesque — a full-size replica of a lynching tree. But all are united by a common theme: They are steeped in racism so intense that it makes visitors cringe.

ACLU lawsuit alleges Grand Rapids mother, son were wrongly targeted, abused by immigration agents

From MLive, 4/19/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/aclu_files_suit_claiming_a_mot.html#incart=river_default

GRAND RAPIDS— A mother and son who say they were targets of harassment by immigration authorities are now represented by the ACLU in a lawsuit against the United States agency.

Detroit NAACP branch celebrating 100 years

From the Michigan Chronicle, 4/18/12

<http://www.michronicleonline.com/index.php/top-news/5616-detroit-branch-naacp-celebrating-100-years>

The year marks 100 years since the founding of the Detroit Branch NAACP. It is a time of celebration, reflecting the victories and challenges of the organization and the people it represents. The organization salutes its predecessors who laid the foundation for the continuous vigilance of the Detroit Branch NAACP.

Judge throws out suit by Andrew Shirvell against former U of M student Chris Armstrong

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/18/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120418/NEWS06/204180379/Judge-throws-out-suit-by-Andrew-Shirvell-against-former-University-of-Michigan-student-president-Chris-Armstrong>

A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit filed by a former Michigan assistant attorney general against a past student body president at the University of Michigan.

End of an era – Milan schools do away with Native imagery

From the Detroit News, 4/18/12

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120418/OPINION01/204180318/1008/End-an-era-Milan-Schools-do-away-Native-imagery>

A couple of months ago, we had James Farrar, a Native American in our community, approach the School Board on the issue of our use of Native American imagery in our school logo. After much research and public discussion, the board passed a resolution April 11 to begin the process of removing such imagery. The resolution reads...

Undocumented citizens losing the fight to keep their US citizen children

From AnnArbor.com/MLive, 4/15/12

http://annarbor.com/news/undocumented-immigrants-losing-the-fight-to-keep-their-us-citizen-children/?cmpid=mlive-@aa-river#incart_river_default

Eleven-year-old Marcos will have been in foster care for two years in June, while his mother remains in a federal detention facility in Texas for being in the country illegally.

'Bully' documentary goes face-to-face with cruelty

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/13/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120413/ENT01/204130316/-Bully-documentary-goes-face-to-face-with-cruelty?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Classrooms, cafeterias and school buses can be places of anguish for millions of children, as powerfully demonstrated in "Bully," an insightful and moving documentary.

Saginaw loses second attempt to appeal former police officer's \$1 million judgment; Next stop could be U.S. Supreme Court

From MLive, 4/11/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2012/04/saginaw_loses_in_second_attemp.html#incart_river_default

SAGINAW, MI — Saginaw City Hall has one more chance to reverse a \$1 million judgment against it: The U.S. Supreme Court.

Ann Arbor Housing Commission refocuses as it emerges from HUD 'troubled status'

From Ann Arbor.com, 4/10/12

http://annarbor.com/news/ann-arbor-housing-commission-looking-up-after-emerging-from-hud-troubled-status/?cmpid=mlive-@aa-river#incart_river_default

The **Ann Arbor Housing Commission** is finally turning around and, as of last month, has been removed from a federal watch list after being in "troubled status."

Bias cases hit record numbers at EEOC

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/9/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120409/NEWS06/204090350/Bias-cases-hit-record-numbers-at-EEOC?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

Mark Louks said he was outraged when his boss at Noble Metal Processing in Warren used the N-word to refer to a black co-worker.

MDOT road sign changed to Trayvon Martin racial slur overnight

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/9/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120409/NEWS02/120409015/MDOT-road-sign-Trayvon-Martin-racial-slur?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

A racial slur appeared on a portable road sign along westbound I-94 in Detroit early this morning after officials said the sign was hacked.

Grand Rapids churches launch pro-gay Christian campaign with billboard, website

From MLive, 4/3/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/churches_launch_pro-gay_christ.html#incart_river_default

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — It took a lifetime of doubt and worry — not to mention five years of marriage to a man — for Cara Oosterhouse to reconcile her sexual orientation with her faith.

Local officials back effort to expand Michigan's civil rights act to include gay, transgendered residents

From MLive, 4/3/12

http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/local_officials_back_effort_to.html#incart_river_default

LANSING – More than 65 elected officials from across the state have signed on to a call to expand the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for gay and transgender people.

Grand Valley State University says it OK'd student keeping guinea pig for emotional support

From MLive/Grand Rapids Press, 4/2/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/grand_valley_state_university_45.html

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The Grand Valley State University student who sued the university after it denied her request to keep an emotional support animal on campus has kept a guinea pig in her room with university permission, GVSU said this afternoon.

Former Bay City police officer sues city alleging age discrimination

From MLive, 3/30/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2012/03/former_bay_city_police_officer.html#incart_river_default

BAY CITY, MI — A former Bay City police officer has filed a lawsuit against Bay City, alleging that age discrimination led to his termination.



Only Fair Is Fair.